

HB 1276 - H AMD 215

By Representatives Reykdal, Becker, Keiser

ADOPTED 03/08/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that low-income
4 youth are not only at higher risk of dropping out of school, they are
5 also less likely to have dependable access to sufficient and
6 nutritious food. Innovative partnerships between community-based
7 organizations, schools, food banks, and farms or gardens offer promise
8 to address both dropout prevention and food security for such youth,
9 as well as enhancing health and nutrition in the surrounding
10 community. These types of partnerships should be supported as pilot
11 projects and carefully evaluated to assure that desired outcomes are
12 met and to identify opportunities for expansion and replication in
13 other parts of the state.

14
15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The dropout prevention through farm engagement pilot project
18 is established for a three-year period beginning in the 2013-14 school
19 year.

20 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
21 select two pilot projects from school districts that agree to partner
22 with community-based organizations, food banks, and farms or gardens
23 to establish an alternative high school program targeted primarily to
24 at-risk youth as provided in subsection (3) of this section. One of
25 the selected projects must be a currently operating program with a
26 record of success in engaging low-income and disengaged youth. The
27 second selected project must create a new program in a different

1 community. One of the projects must be selected from east of the
2 crest of the Cascade mountains and one must be selected from west of
3 the crest of the Cascade mountains. The selected projects must
4 operate near farm-related activities and may include partnerships with
5 farm-oriented student clubs and organizations. Participating in this
6 pilot project may be incorporated into a student's culminating project
7 to meet any community service requirements.

8 (3) Dropout prevention through farm engagement pilot projects must
9 have the following characteristics:

10 (a) Primarily target low-income and disengaged youth who have
11 dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of high school;

12 (b) Provide participating youth with opportunities for community
13 service such as building food gardens for low-income families and
14 work-based learning and employment training during the school year and
15 during the summer through a farm or garden program;

16 (c) Provide participating youth with opportunities to earn core
17 credits and elective credits toward high school graduation, including
18 but not limited to science, health, and career and technical education
19 credits;

20 (d) Offer youth development support and services to participating
21 youth including social emotional learning, counseling, leadership
22 training, and career and college guidance; and

23 (e) Improve food security for participating youth and the
24 community through the farm or garden program.

25 (4) For each annual average full-time equivalent student enrolled
26 in the pilot project, including enrollment during the summer months,
27 the participating school district shall receive a basic education
28 allocation as calculated under RCW 28A.150.260 and the omnibus
29 appropriations act for a skill center student. The allocation under
30 this subsection does not apply to a student's enrollment in courses of
31 study that are not part of the pilot project. The allocations
32 provided for the pilot project based on the basic education allocation
33 as calculated under RCW 28A.150.260 and the omnibus appropriations act
34 for a skills center student may not be used to provide participating

1 youth with stipends. No funds from levies under RCW 84.52.0531 may be
2 used to provide participating youth with stipends. Any stipends that
3 are provided to participating youth through other funds must be
4 prorated based on attendance, and youth who are absent for a day may
5 not receive any stipend amount for that day.

6 (5) The purpose of the dropout prevention through farm engagement
7 pilot project is to measure the effectiveness and cost-benefit of a
8 particular alternative high school program on improving outcomes for
9 at-risk youth. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
10 shall conduct a rigorous evaluation after the pilot projects have been
11 operating for two years, including analysis of a statistical
12 comparison group of students who did not participate in the project.
13 The office shall submit the evaluation results to the education
14 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2015, including
15 recommendations for whether the pilot projects should be continued or
16 replicated in other parts of the state.

17 (6) Outcomes to be measured under the pilot project include:

- 18 (a) Student GPA overall and in science;
19 (b) Number of earned credits in core courses and elective courses;
20 (c) Incidence of discipline issues;
21 (d) School attendance rates;
22 (e) High school graduation and GED attainment;
23 (f) Student health and nutrition;
24 (g) Acreage used for fresh produce;
25 (h) Volume of produce produced and made available to students,
26 families, school district food programs, and community food banks; and
27 (i) Hours of community service activity by students.

28 (7) This section expires August 31, 2016."

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the underlying bill:

- Requires that one project is selected from west of the Cascades and one from east of the Cascades.
- Requires that the projects operate near farm-related activities.
- Allows partnerships with farm-related student clubs and organizations.
- Allows participation in the pilot project to be incorporated

into a student's culminating project to meet any community service requirements.

- Specifies that the opportunities given to youth include employment training.
- Prohibits allocations provided for the pilot project from being used for providing participating youth with stipends.
- Prohibits funds from levies from being used to provide participating youth with stipends.
- Requires that any stipends that are provided to participating youth from other funds be prorated based on attendance and students who are absent may not receive any stipend amount for that day.

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